

# Mapline

*A quarterly newsletter published by  
The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography  
at The Newberry Library*

Number 21 March 1981

**Maria S. Holden, *Editor***

# Daniel Specklin: Map-Maker & Architect



Daniel Specklin (1536-1589), *Argentina* [Strasbourg] 1587, Novacco Collection 2F90. (Photo by Peter Weil)

1

DANIEL SPECKLIN WAS ONE of the most important German regional map-makers of the 16th century, although he was better known during his lifetime as a military architect. Few impressions of his maps and views survive. Of the extant works, most are engraved maps and views of Strasbourg and the surrounding region of Alsace. Two such engravings are found in the Novacco Collection of the Newberry Library.

Specklin was born in Strasbourg in 1536, the son of Veit Rudolf Specklin, an engraver whose works included the plates for the *Krauterbuch* by L. Fuchs

which appeared in Latin in 1542 and in German the following year.

Although little is known of his early career in either engraving or architecture, by 1570 Specklin had become a well-recognized military architect. In 1570 and the years immediately following, he traveled to the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, and Prussia to construct fortifications. So great was his reputation in the field that few military bastions were built during this period without his consultation. Following the

(continued on next page)

*The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography*

Director: David Buisseret

The Center was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information is available on request.

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Specklin's later years were devoted to writing and map-making. He wrote and illustrated several texts, including *Architectura von Festungen* (the architecture of fortresses), a practical building guide which was reprinted many times. Recalling the *Nuremberg Chronicle* of 1493 (as had many German map-makers before him), Specklin wrote and illustrated a *Strasbourg Chronicle* in 1587. The view of Strasbourg, or "Argentina" (found in the Novacco collection of the Newberry Library) is dated to 1587 as well, the year of Specklin's *Chronicle*.

The first view illustrating the walled city of Strasbourg (1), entitled "Argentina" (the ancient name for Strasbourg, from the Roman "Argentoratum") measures 17.5 x 38 cm. and is one of two known copies. Formerly in the Destombes Collection, this example is an idealized view of the city, dominated by the great Munster and surrounded by a sequence of walls, a

portion of which was designed and built by the artist and architect, Daniel Specklin. Major churches as well as the Pfenningthorn (counting house) are represented. These landmarks are carefully identified by a number or letter that refers to the key at the lower left.

This second example (2), covering Strasbourg and the surrounding region, is described with hundreds of small, castellated towns and strongholds. The design harks back to earlier models, particularly works attributed to Erhard Etzlaub, such as his map entitled *Das ist der Rom Weg* (the way to Rome) which was made for pilgrims in the holy year of 1500.

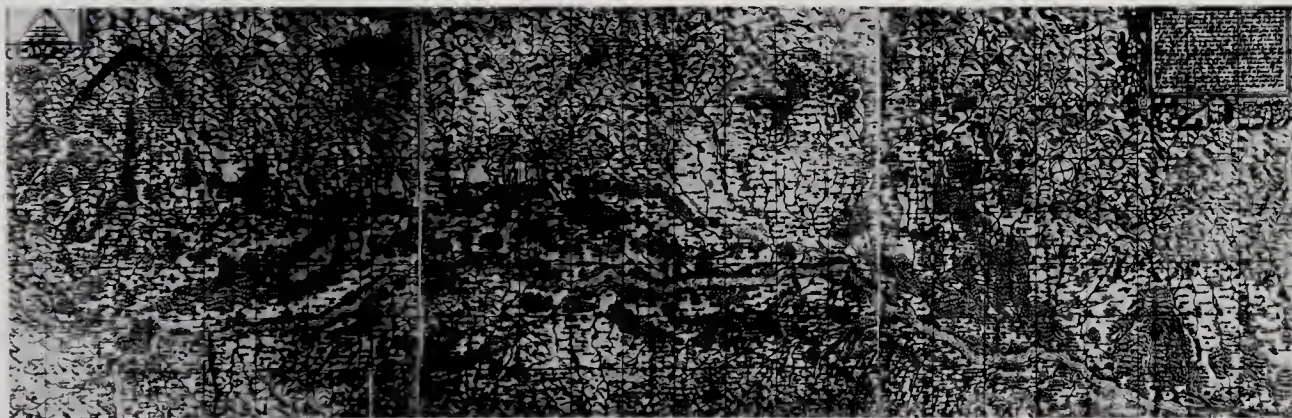
The most prominent feature of the map is the Rhine, drawn in snake-like fashion. Towns are small and undifferentiated with three exceptions: Strasbourg itself, Basel, and Freiburg. The rectangular cartouche at the upper right contains an inscription which describes the region and to the left is the "Hartt" (deer) forest with a beribboned cross bearing the title of the map.

From what is known of Specklin's work, these are characteristic views. Although his works of military architecture were executed throughout Northern Europe, the known maps and prints focused almost exclusively on the area immediately surrounding the city of Strasbourg. Together, these examples aptly attest to the regional significance of Strasbourg in the 16th century as well as the significance of Specklin as a map-engraver.

**Margaret Williams Norton**

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Daniel Specklin (1536-1589), *Territorio del Reno da Basilea a Baden* 1576, Novacco Collection 6F19. (Photo by Peter Weil)

2



THE GEOGRAPHY AND MAP Section of the International Federation of Library Associations has established a liaison with the International Cartographic Association and is working on a *Multi-lingual*

*Dictionary of Technical Terms*. The groups are jointly suggesting the establishment of an International Standard Cartographic Number comparable to ISSN and ISBN.

THE CANADIAN CARTOGRAPHIC Association has recently issued an updated membership list with current addresses and a French translation of its constitution. The organization is encouraged by growing membership in the west, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia, in the U.S. and elsewhere.

At the 1980 Annual Meeting of the CCA, Ed Dahl, chairman of the History of Cartography Interest Group and Head of the Early Canadian Section, National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada, reported on the Group's activities. Its principal interest this year was to encourage the development of local map societies in a number of Canadian cities. At the regional level, a Kingston meeting is being considered for the Spring of 1981. A 1982 meeting in Ottawa will coincide with the 75th Anniversary activities of the National Map Collection.

## Recent Publications

Castner, Henry W. "Special Purpose Mapping in 18th-Century Russia: A Search for the Beginnings of Thematic Mapping." *The American Cartographer* 7, No. 2 (1980): 163-175.

Kidd, Betty. "Preventative Conservation for Map Collections." *Special Libraries* 71 (December 1980): 529-538.

Lass, William E. *Minnesota's Boundary with Canada: Its Evolution Since 1783*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1980. (Cloth, \$16.50; Paper, \$8.75, Jean Brookins, MHS Press, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101).

*This is a thorough and well-written account, based on research in American & British archives, of one of the trickiest parts of a much-disputed boundary. Maps, beginning with Mitchell's of 1755, played a major role in the boundary dispute and Lass discusses them carefully. Useful information on the work of the various surveyors who did the field work is included.*

*The Map Collector* 13 (December 1980) Contents: Dahl, Edward H. and Heidenreich, Conrad. "The French Mapping of North America in the Seventeenth Century"; Piggot, Charles. "When the Cycle was King of the Road"; Wallis, Helen and Pelletier, Monique. "The Resurrection of Coronelli's Great Globes"; Ravenhill, William. "Mapping the Lizard."

Monmonier, Mark S. "The Geography of Urban Street Mapping in Pennsylvania: Recent Cartographic History." *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science* 54 (1980): 73-77.

Oehme, Ruthardt. "Der Geograph und Kartograph" in Seck, Friedrich, ed., *Wilhelm Schickard 1592-1635*. Tübingen, 1978: 310-375.

Stephens, John D. "Current Cartographic Serials: An Annotated International List." *The American Cartographer* 7, No. 2 (1980): 123-138.

Tracy, James D. *True Ocean Found: Paludanus's Letters on Dutch Voyages to the Kara Sea, 1595-1596*. Minneapolis: James Ford Bell Library and University of Minnesota Press, 1980. (\$10.00, University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414)

Treude, Mai. *Windows to the Past: A Bibliography of Minnesota County Atlases*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1980. (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 311 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street, S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

Van der Vekene, Emile. *Les cartes géographiques du Duché de Luxembourg. Editées aux XVIe, XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*. Luxembourg: Editions Jean-Pierre Kriessler-Muller, 1981.

*The subtitle is important; these are printed maps of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. They are well reproduced, in monochrome, on one side of the page; on the other is a very useful commentary. Van der Vekene limits himself to cartobibliographical comments, but these are abundant and helpful. It would be good if more regions—and even whole countries—could be similarly covered. This substantial book not only offers a model for such coverage, but also contains much useful information about adjacent areas of Belgium and France.*

Wallis, Helen and Zogner, Lothar, eds. *The Map Librarian in the Modern World*. New York and Munich: K.G. Saur Publishing, Inc., 1979.

*Presented by the IFLA Section of Geography and Map Libraries.*

Worsham, James. "Collecting old maps." *Chicago Tribune*, December 23, 1980, Section 3, p. 1.

## Conferences

THE IXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on the History of Cartography will be held in Pisa, Florence, and Rome from 30 May to 5 June 1981. The conference organized by Domus Galilaiana, Pisa, in collaboration with the International Society for the History of Cartography and *Inago Mundi*, will be held at the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza and the Biblioteca Laurenziana in Florence, and the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana in Rome. In the tradition of previous meetings, the papers will be grouped in sessions according to the following subject areas: cartography of the seas, of explorations, and of the world, cartographic techniques and symbols, regional cartography, and art in cartography. Special emphasis will be given to Italian cartography. For information on registration, program, and hotel accommodations, please contact the Secretariat. (See *Calendar*)



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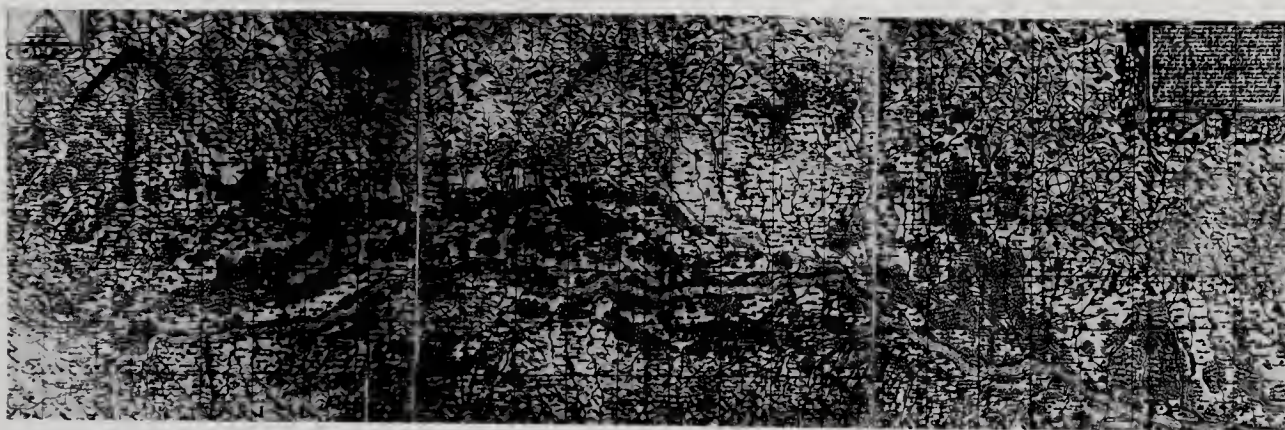
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# Calendar

- 19 March**  
Chicago Map Society, The Newberry Library. Speaker: Robert Wiest, Graphic Conservation Department, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co., Chicago, "Travel east, travel west: The restoration of a 1573 Ortelius *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*." (Marsha Selmer, Chicago Map Society, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610)
- 30 March**  
Michigan Map Society, Room 3001, University of Michigan School of Public Health Building, Ann Arbor. Speaker: Professor Richard Mahard. Topic: The cooperative draining of swamplands in N.W. Ohio and S.E. Michigan in the 19th century. A map sale will be held at this meeting and all or part of the proceeds will go to the society as contributions. (Judy Siegal, Geography Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109)
- 30 March-3 April**  
Survey and Mapping 81: UK National Land Surveying and Mapping Conference, University of Reading. (Survey and Mapping 81, The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD)
- 7-9 April**  
20th Annual Canadian Hydrographic Conference, Burlington, Ontario. (Conference Chairman, 20th Hydrographic Service, PO Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6)
- 14 April**  
Michigan Map Society, Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Speaker: Rear Admiral G.S. Ritchie, International Hydrographic Bureau, "Captain Cook as a Hydrographic Surveyor." (Judy Siegal, Geography Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109)
- 19-22 April**  
Association of American Geographers 77th Anniversary Meeting, Los Angeles. (Patricia J. McWethy, Executive Director, AAG, 1710 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009)
- 30 May-5 June**  
IXth International Conference on the History of Cartography, Pisa, Florence, and Rome. (Segretaria della IX Conferenza Internazionale di Storia della Cartografia, Piazza Paganica, 4, 00186 Roma, Italia)
- 8-11 June**  
Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax. (Garry Shutlak, 6016 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1W4)
- 16-19 August**  
Annual meeting of the Canadian Cartographic Association, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. (Clifford Wood, Department of

Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X9)

- 25 August-8 September**  
Seminar for Map Librarians from Developing Countries, Utrecht. (E.H. van de Waal, Geografisch Instituut der Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht, POB 80115, 3508 TC, Utrecht, Netherlands)

- 5-8 October**  
First International Conference on the Discovery and History of the Boreal Polar Regions, Rome. (Comite Arctique, Congres International de Rome 1981, 16 Boulevard de Suisse, MONTE-CARLO)

- 15-17 October**  
XIIth Conference on American Prints, Philadelphia. Theme: "Mapping the Americas: Print and Process." (Peter Parker, Chief of Manuscripts, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107)

## Research Note

David Woodward, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, reports that yet two more Agnese atlases have come to light, in addition to that reported in *Mapline* 2 (1976), the result of work by Professor Edward Schnayder of the Biblioteka Jagiellonska, Krakow. They are both drawn on vellum around 1540, and are to be found in the University Library, Department of Cartographic Collections of the University of Wroclaw (ul. sw. Jadwigi 3/4, 50-226 Wroclaw) and the University of Torun (ul. Gagarina 13, 87-100 Torun). The call numbers are respectively IV Q 148a and A-132-II. Prof. Schnayder's address is 31-141 Krakow, Krowoderska 37/8, POLSKA-Poland.

## Exhibitions

*Nebraska Towns on View*, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Exhibition of 19th-century drawings, paintings, and prints of Nebraska towns to accompany the Center for Great Plains Studies Symposium, "American Pioneer Landscapes: Origins & Evolutions." 30 April-1 May (Helen Brooks, Department of Geography, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE)

*Kartografika: Landkarten gestern und heute*, Berlin, Marsburg/Lahn, and Dortmund. Touring exhibition on the history of cartography compiled by the Map Department of the Staatsbibliothek, Berlin and Ernst Klett Publisher, Stuttgart. Until May (E. Klett, Rotebuhlstr. 77, D-7 Stuttgart).

*Berlin in Karten, 1650-1950*, Berlin. Exhibition of the Map Department of the Staatsbibliothek, Berlin. Catalogue by K. Lindner and L. Zogner. 20 May to 20 August 1981 (Postfach 1407, D-1 Berlin-30, West Germany).

## Map Society Notes

THE MAP SOCIETY OF California enjoyed a successful first year, highlighted by quarterly meetings which enabled members to exchange ideas on a variety of map related topics.

The Society's inaugural meeting was held at California State University, Fullerton, in November 1979. The meeting, which focused on early cartographic history, included talks by Dr. Norman Thrower (President, 1979-1980), "The Cartography of Sr. Francis Drake's Famous Voyage (1577-1580);" by Sandra Lamprecht, "Atlases and Adventures; the Rare and Restricted Geography Books in the California State University, Long Beach Library;" by Dr. Judith A. Tyner, "William Dampier: The Buccaneer Geographer;" and by Roy Boswell, "The Collection for the History of Cartography at California State, Fullerton." This last collection was on display for Society members during the afternoon.

The making of maps was the theme of the second meeting which was held in January 1980 at the Western Map Center of the U.S. Geological Survey. It began with a tour of the facility to see many of the tools and techniques of the map-makers' trade. It was followed by talks on map conventions old and new, a presentation of an unusual technique of marine cartography, a discussion of the services of the National Cartographic Information Center and the information which it has available, a report on thematic mapping developments at the U.S.G.S., and a presentation of the Ortho Photo Map products of the U.S.G.S.

The topic of the third event of the Map Society, which met at the UCLA Research Library in March 1980, was early California. Talks on the program included "Early Maps of Los Angeles," by Neil Harlow, "19th-Century Reconnaissance Mapping in California," by Robert H. Block, and "Map Resources of the Department of Special Collections at UCLA," by Hilda Bohem. The program also included visits to the UCLA Research Library map collection, the UCLA map library, and the cartographic facilities of the UCLA Geography Department. This program barely scratched the surface of the rich mine of information available to cartophiles at UCLA, but it made for a very full and fascinating day.

The next meeting was held at the U.C. Davis Campus on 24 April 1980 as a joint conference with the Western Association of Map Libraries. The program included descriptions of the California Archives Map Collection, the State Lands Commission of Map Collection, the cartographic records in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and in the California State Railroad Museum. In addition, there was a lively discussion of the problem of the location of the border between California and Nevada, and the long history of the dispute.

The first meeting of the 1980-81 year was held in the library at U.C. Santa Barbara. Papers were presented on the use of mini-computers and other cybernetic devices in the making and interpretation of maps, the Map Imagery Laboratory at UCSB including a tour of the facility, and the work that is presently being done at the U.S.G.S. in mapping and understanding Mt. St. Helens.

A wide range of topics was presented by the speakers at the January 1981 meeting, held at the U.C. Berkeley campus. Themes in the history of cartography were discussed by Professor Svetlana Alpers in her talk, "The Mapping Impulse in Dutch Art," and Tony Cimolino whose lecture was entitled, "The Cartography of the 1685 Atlas of Basil Ringrose." Contemporary topics were considered by Patricia Caldwell in "Television News Maps," and a representative from Comarc Design Systems speaking on "Geobased Information Systems Applications." For further information on the Map Society of California, please contact Richard Hansen, 11245 Dry Creek Road, Auburn, CA 95603.



PAT MOORE, *MAPLINE*'S FOUNDER and first editor, was the key speaker at the February meeting of the New York Map Society. Her talk, "The Map Society Story," covered current map societies, their organization and membership, interests in terms of meetings, projects and publications, and origins. She also offered advice on starting a society and hints on attracting members. Pat is presently a graduate student at Pratt and a contributing editor to *The Map Collector*.



THE INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' Society (IMCS) held its inaugural meeting recently. Rodney Shirley, the well-known author and collector of early maps, was elected president of the Society.

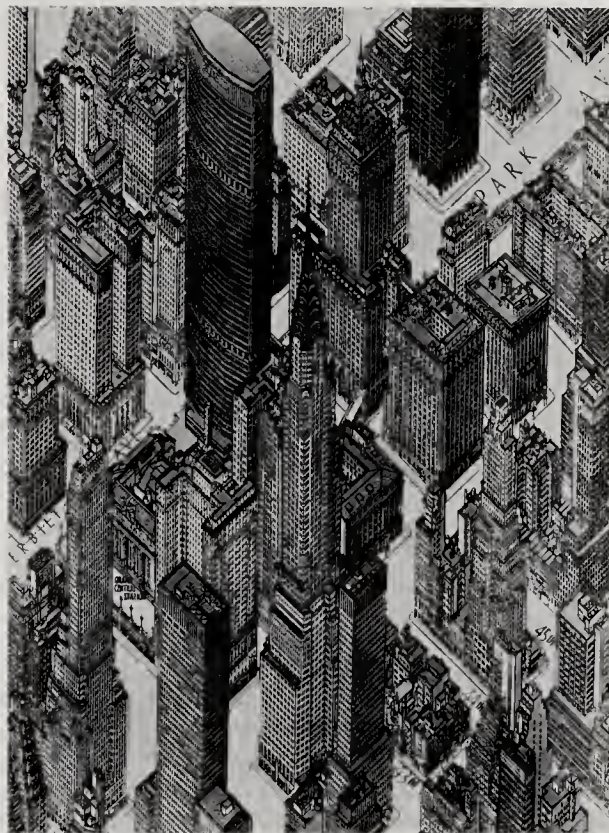
At the meeting, Mr. Shirley acknowledged the need for a forum where map collectors could come together and learn from each other. He also welcomed the participation of dealers, academics, and researchers who share an enthusiasm for cartography and the allied fields of topography, geography, history, and conservation. He was encouraged by the favorable response from overseas collectors and stressed the importance of cooperation among foreign clubs and societies.

Further information about the IMCS can be obtained from the secretary, Richard Davies, Woodstock, Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire, England WR7 3BS.





# Hermann Bollmann: A Modern Merian



The Bollmann map of New York is now available at the New York Bound Bookshop. The folded version costs \$8.00 (NY tax included) and the unfolded, \$17.00. Address orders to The New York Bound Bookshop, 43 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.

THE CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION of artistry in town views, if dwindling, persists at least in the work of Hermann Bollman. In the spirit of Braun and Hogenberg, de'Barbari, and Merian, Bollman attempts to recreate on paper an accurate as well as artistic bird's-eye-view of urban areas, shunning the abstract and two-dimensional conventions used in urban cartography since the advent of scientific cartography in the late 18th century.

Bollmann was born in Braunschweig in 1911 and worked as a graphic artist until the Second World War. It was during his internment in a prisoner-of-war camp that he devised his techniques for producing bird's-eye-views of towns and cities. He applied these techniques after the war in his attempt to visually document, at 5-year intervals, the reconstruction of war-ravaged Braunschweig. This was the first in his great series of pictorial records of towns and cities, which include Amsterdam, Munich, Frankford, Trier, and New York.

Bollman executed his early works single-handedly, working from sketches drawn at street level. His techniques have become far more sophisticated since; he and his team, using specialized photographic equipment, take thousands of photos, both aerial and terrestrial, of each town or city to be mapped. Bollmann's map of new York required the taking of some 50,000 photographs.

The New York map covers the area bound by Central Park, the East River, and the Hudson. Drawn in isometric perspective at a scale of 1:4,800, all of the features, from the Empire State Building to lamp posts, are painstakingly reproduced. The color scheme is characteristically subdued; pale blue, green, and grey predominate.

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## *Starry Map*

THE OLD PROVERB SAYS "speak of the devil and you hear the flutter of wings!" Such prompting also seems to apply to academic notes concerning claims of precedence for, no sooner had I recorded in *Mapline* the Catal Hyük wall-painting as being the oldest recorded map, than I received a report of an even more ancient claimant.

A news item in the London *Daily Telegraph* of 19 August 1980 is topped by the rather startling headline "35,000 year-old Star Map on Tortoise." It relates the Soviet news agency Tass as reporting that archaeologists excavating an ancient settlement in

Siberia had found a 35,000 year-old stone tortoise with the constellation (sic) of the northern hemisphere inscribed on its shell. Deep holes in the tortoise-shell represented the biggest stars in the Ursa Major constellation and the widest hole designated the Pole Star. The recording of several stars not visible today and changes in the positions of some constellations are quoted as proof of genuineness. The tortoise, of course, appears as an element of Asian cosmic-mythology and more information concerning this intriguing find is awaited.

**Harry Steward**